

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 IOE-00 VO-03 SS-15 CPR-01 SCA-01

PRS-01 SY-05 USSS-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

OIC-02 PA-01 USIA-06 NSC-05 /069 W

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P 201405Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6150

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0826

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA

SUBJECT: SECVISIT: HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 31ST UNGA

REF: (A) STATE 180074, (B) STATE 225436

1. MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SIR HAROLD WALTER, DEPARTED MAURITIUS 17 SEPTEMBER FOR NEW YORK TO PARTICIPATE IN SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA QUESTION. PRESS REPORTS HE IS TO "SUPPORT CASE OF NAMIBIA" IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY PERMSEC FREEDY PARFAIT ADVISES THAT SIR HAROLD WILL BE PRESENT FOR UNGA OPENING, BUT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO NEW YORK IS NAMIBIAN QUESTION. WALTER WILL RETURN TO MAURITIUS LATER IN WEEK, STOPPING IN LESOTHO AND BOTSWANA TO REPRESENT GOM AT INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

2. PARFAIT SAYS THAT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM PLANS TO ATTEND UNGA AND TO ADDRESS IT AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU. PRESENT PLANNING IS FOR PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY (INCLUDING WALTER AND PARFAIT) TO DEPART MAURITIUS OCTOBER 10 OR 11, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI'S OFFICIAL VISIT (WHICH IT NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 8 TO 10). WILL ADVISE ADDITIONAL DETAILS WHEN AVAILABLE.

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3. THUS FAR RAMGOOLAM HAS NOT REQUESTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY. STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT A MEETING WITH RAMGOOLAM BE INCLUDED ON SECRETARY'S NEW YORK SCHEDULE. AS WALTER INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR EARLIER, RAMGOOLAM WOULD BE GREATLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING BRIEFING ON CURRENT EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS, A COURSE HE PERSONALLY STRONGLY FAVORS OVER RESORT TO VIOLENCE. HE FEELS HE IS "ENTITLED" TO BEING KEPT INFORMED AS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU. THERE ARE NO BILATERAL USG-GOM PROBLEMS THAT NEED OCCUPY THE SECRETARY'S TIME SHOULD HE MEET WITH RAMGOOLAM. RECOMMEND THAT TIME BE DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING WITH RAMGOOLAM USG EFFORTS TO ASSIST AFRICANS IN FINDING PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SOLUTIONS TO THEIR PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE AND SOUTH AFRICA. RAMGOOLAM IS AMONG MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS WHO SUPPORT OUR APPROACH, AND WHATEVER ASSISTANCE HE COULD LEND AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU OUGHT TO BE ENLISTED.

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